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ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Energy and Environment)

USAid lauds Bayawan's forestland use plan

(Source: SunStar Dumaguete News Online – 1/30/08)

TOP officials of the United States Agency for International Development (USAid) assured continuous help to Bayawan City for its successful implementation of its forestland use plan and other development projects.

Mission Director Jon Lindborg of USAid-Philippines, Daniel Moore -- chief of its Office of Energy and Environment, and their party were in Bayawan City recently for a briefing and site visits to the FLUP and other projects funded by the agency.

Mayor German Sarana expressed gratitude for USAid's assistance to Bayawan City that has boosted its development and progress.

The FLUP was started in 2003 through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Eco-Gov project of the USAid.

Covered by the FLUP project of Bayawan are the Riverbank Rehabilitation and Management Project, Barangay Danapa Watershed Project, Tree Park at the new government center, forest line delineation survey, establishment of water production areas, rehabilitation of denuded critical watersheds, and trial planting of jathropa, commonly known as "tuba-tuba".

Lindborg lauded these local initiatives on environmental protection, saying these are examples of a strong partnership between the United States and Philippine governments.

The USAid officials also said they will find ways to further help fulfill these initiatives, saying their partnership is "very, very important" to them. **(EBS)**